



Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Primary School
Early Years Foundation Stage
Brochure 2022-2023





Welcome

- We are always pleased to welcome new children into our Early Years setting, where they will begin their school life and their time spent with us will be both fun and rewarding.
- Until your child starts school, you and your family are the most important influence in your child's education and we will to work with you to ensure that the vital task of educating your child can be a shared responsibility. Through cooperation between school and parents your child will develop in a happy and secure way.
- This booklet is to tell you about our Early Years Foundation Stage and to answer any questions you may have. If the information you need is not in this booklet or our school brochure, please feel free to contact the school and have a chat with the Foundation Stage staff about anything you wish to discuss or are unsure about.



Our Mission Statement

As unique children of God;
we love, learn, grow and
inspire!

Let your light shine.



Meet the Early Years team

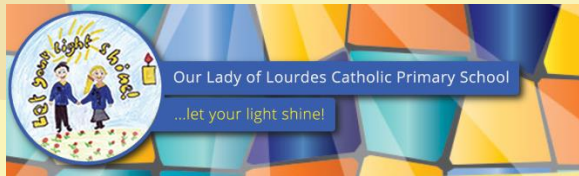


Ms Wetherell – Class Teacher



Miss Smith – TA





The Early Years Foundation Stage @ Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Primary School

At Our Lady of Lourdes RC Primary School, we believe that the Early Years Foundation Stage is crucial in securing solid foundations that children are going to continue to build upon.

We inspire for all learners to shine in their own unique way by working in partnership with parents and carers to encourage independent, happy learners who thrive in school and reach their full potential from their various starting points.

We recognise children's interests and prior learning before planning learning opportunities to support early reading, writing, mathematics and language development as well as social skills.

We encourage all children to value the importance of working hard, learning from mistakes and responding positively to challenge.

Children are encouraged to be independent and resilient in their learning, with adults facilitating as required.



The Early Years Foundation Stage @ Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Primary School

Our teaching approach is based on the key principles set out in the framework for the Early Years Foundation Stage, March 2021.

Throughout their reception year, children will have opportunities to develop their social skills and form positive relationships with peers and adults alike.

They develop skills in turn-taking & sharing and are given opportunities to practise these skills in a safe and nurturing environment.

We use a restorative approach to promote positive behaviour and attitudes to learning which reflect the values and skills needed to promote responsibility for learning and future success.

We don't stop playing because we grow old; we grow old because we stop playing.

George Bernard Shaw

Our School Prayers

We say these prayers every day in the morning, at lunchtime and at the end of the day.

You and your child can begin to learn these at home.



Sign of the Cross

In the name of the Father,
and of the Son,
and of the Holy Spirit,
Amen



Our School Prayers

These are very important prayers that we say regularly at school. You and your child can begin to learn these at home.

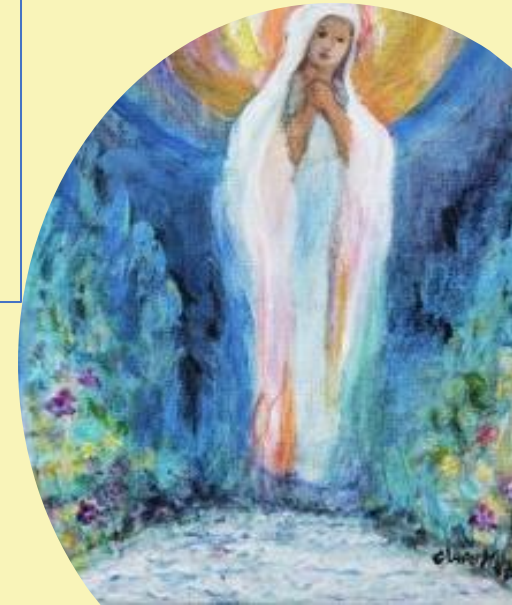
*Lord,
Hear Our
Prayer*

Our Father

Our Father, Who art in heaven
Hallowed be Thy Name;
Thy kingdom come,
Thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread,
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass
against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
Amen.

Hail Mary

Hail Mary, full of grace.
The Lord is with thee.
Blessed art thou among women,
and blessed is the fruit of thy womb,
Jesus.
Holy Mary, Mother of God,
pray for us sinners,
now and at the hour of our death.
Amen.



Our School Prayers

We say these prayers every day in the morning and at the end of the day.

You and your child can begin to learn these at home.



Morning Prayer

Oh my God, you love me,
You are with me night and day.
I want to love you always,
In all I do and say.
I will try to please you Father,
Bless me through the day.
Amen

Evening Prayer

Oh my God, I come to say
Thank you for your love today.
Thank you for my family,
And all the friends you give to
me.
Guard me in the dark of night
And in the morning, send your
light
Amen



Our School Prayers

We say these prayers every day before and after lunchtime.
You and your child can begin to learn these at home.



Grace Before Meals

Bless us, O Lord, as we sit together.

Bless the food we eat today.

Bless the hands that made the food.

Bless us, O Lord.

Amen.

Grace After Meals

Thank you, God, for the food we have eaten.

Thank you, God, for all our friends.

Thank you, God, for everything.

Thank you, God.

Amen.



Arrival and Collection

- All children will arrive at school through the Reception gate (at the top of the carpark, near the cemetery entrance) and come to the classroom door, where a member of staff will greet the children.
- Please make sure a member of staff has seen their arrival.
- Parents are asked to collect their children from the same place at home time.
- The parent or carer who brings the child to school **must inform the teacher** if you have arranged for someone else to collect the child.

Please note: For safeguarding reasons, if we do not recognise the person who is collecting your child, they will have to wait until we contact you for confirmation.

Arrival and Collection



Children's Entrance



Main Office

What your child will learn – Principles of Early Years Foundation Stage

- The children in Reception follow the Early Years Foundation Stage Framework (revised March 2021) and work towards the seven areas of Learning and Development.
- It is a very holistic approach to learning and places a strong emphasis on the individual child. It is a continuation from the active learning the children have been involved in at Nursery/Pre-School and culminates in the Foundation Stage Profile, which assesses all areas of learning for your child.
- At the end of the year, we will provide you with a written report based around the Foundation Stage Profile.

The **wider** the range
of **possibilities**
we offer **children,**
the more **INTENSE** will be
their **MOTIVATIONS**
and the **RICHER** their
EXPERIENCES

Loris Malaquzzi

What your child will learn – Principles of Early Years Foundation Stage

Characteristics of Effective Learning



What your child will learn –

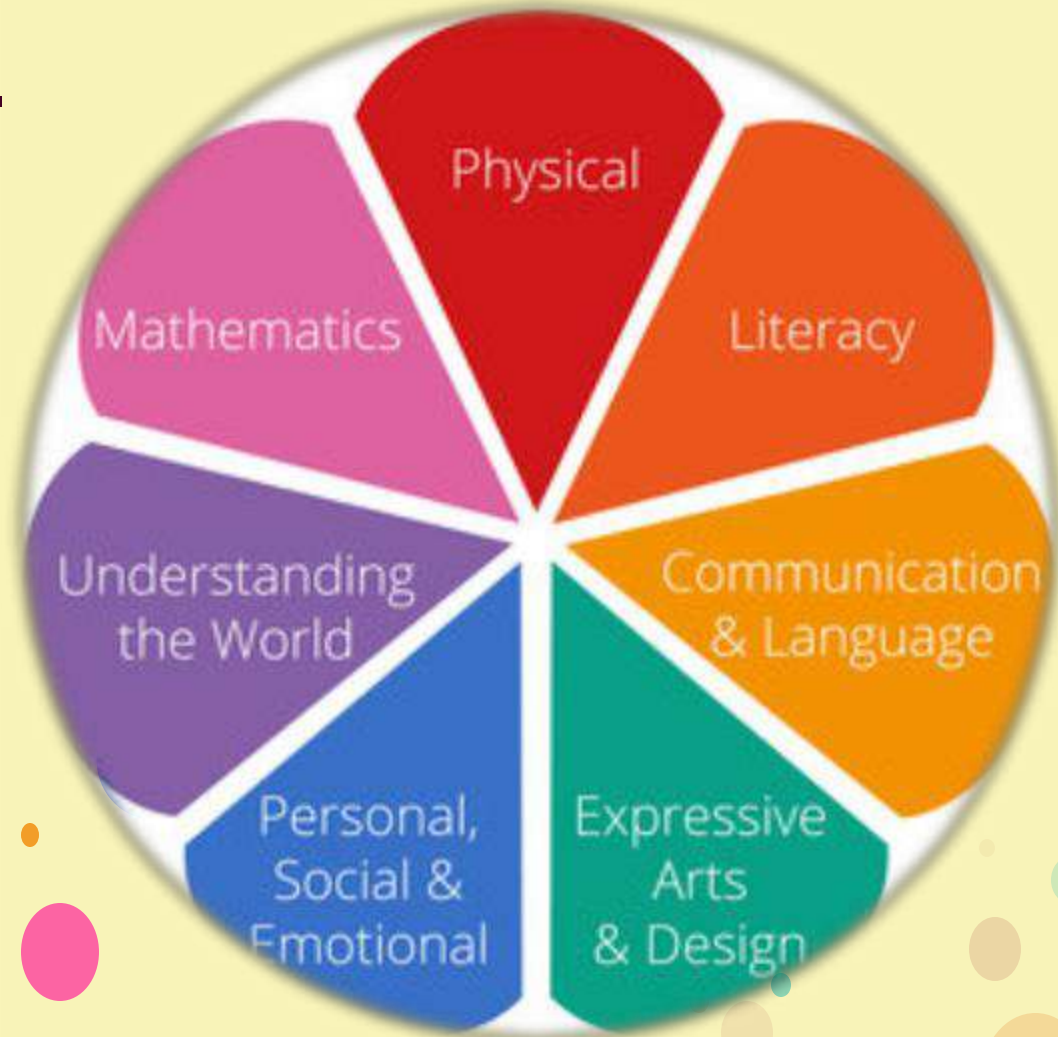
Principles of Early Years Foundation Stage

We will provide you with information about the Early Years Foundation Stage throughout the year. The specific areas of learning strengthen the prime areas and are all taught together; they are all equally important and depend on each other to support a rounded approach to your child's development.

Much of our work is topic-based and we have a theme that runs for each half term.

The children are presented with a wide range of practical experiences, (adult-led, adult-framed and child-initiated) that are intended to motivate, stimulate and challenge.

We promote learning through experience and by the encouragement of independence.



Working in partnership with parents

We encourage the children to be independent in all school activities and welcome parental help in achieving this. You can help by encouraging your child to be self-reliant. This will help in their adjustment to new routines.



Encouraging your child to be independent.

- Can they dress themselves?
- Can they manage the toilet with the habit of washing their hands afterwards?
 - Can they use a knife, fork and spoon?
- Can they put on and fasten their own coat?
 - Can they fasten their shoes?
 - Can they recognise their own name?
 - Can they carry out simple instructions?
- Help them to tell simple stories and enjoy books.
- Play games, build models, do jigsaws and assemble toys with your child.
- Help your child to use a pencil and scissors correctly.

How will your child learn?

Adult-led activities.

These are activities that children will carry out with a member of staff in both indoor and outdoor environments.

The children are asked to work individually or in small groups to complete them, which may introduce new skills or concepts, or encourage practise or extension of other skills.



How will your child learn?

Adult-framed activities.

These are activities that the staff have planned for the children but are not led by them.

The children can access them independently, staying at them for as long as they like. These activities are chosen to either develop or consolidate skills and are often linked to the topic for that half term.



How will your child learn?

Child initiated activities.

These are activities completely chosen by the children themselves. The children select the resources they need, carry out their play and put them away, without the support of an adult. They are encouraged to make decisions and solve problems independently.



What will your child learn?

Communication and Language

The development of children's spoken language underpins all seven areas of learning and development. Children's back-and-forth interactions from an early age form the foundations for language and cognitive development. The number and quality of the conversations they have with adults and peers throughout the day in a language-rich environment is crucial. By commenting on what children are interested in or doing, and echoing back what they say with new vocabulary added, practitioners will build children's language effectively. Reading frequently to children, and engaging them actively in stories, non-fiction, rhymes and poems, and then providing them with extensive opportunities to use and embed new words in a range of contexts, will give children the opportunity to thrive. Through conversation, story-telling and role play, where children share their ideas with support and modelling from their teacher, and sensitive questioning that invites them to elaborate, children become comfortable using a rich range of vocabulary and language structures.

Activities at home:

- Play memory games
- Games like 'I spy'
- Reading books every day and talking with children about stories, characters and illustrations.
- Singing songs, nursery rhymes and lullabies
- Describing and guessing games
- Role-play games
- Using puppets
- Using technology such as microphones, walkie talkies and video recorders
- Baking and cooking
- Following instructions
- Day trips
- Lots of talking!



What will your child learn?

Personal, Social and Emotional Development

Children's personal, social and emotional development (PSED) is crucial for children to lead healthy and happy lives, and is fundamental to their cognitive development. Underpinning their personal development are the important attachments that shape their social world. Strong, warm and supportive relationships with adults enable children to learn how to understand their own feelings and those of others. Children should be supported to manage emotions, develop a positive sense of self, set themselves simple goals, have confidence in their own abilities, to persist and wait for what they want and direct attention as necessary. Through adult modelling and guidance, they will learn how to look after their bodies, including healthy eating, and manage personal needs independently. Through supported interaction with other children, they learn how to make good friendships, co-operate and resolve conflicts peacefully. These attributes will provide a secure platform from which children can achieve at school and in later life.

Activities at home:

- Play games to encourage sharing and taking turns.
- Talk about how things make you and your child feel.
- Encourage your child to wash their hands after going to the toilet.
- When your child does something they shouldn't have, encourage your child to think about what they did and how it was wrong.



What will your child learn?

Physical Development

Physical activity is vital in children's all-round development, enabling them to pursue happy, healthy and active lives. Gross and fine motor experiences develop incrementally throughout early childhood, starting with sensory explorations and the development of a child's strength, co-ordination and positional awareness through tummy time, crawling and play movement with both objects and adults. By creating games and providing opportunities for play both indoors and outdoors, adults can support children to develop their core strength, stability, balance, spatial awareness, co-ordination and agility. Gross motor skills provide the foundation for developing healthy bodies and social and emotional well-being. Fine motor control and precision helps with hand-eye co-ordination which is later linked to early literacy. Repeated and varied opportunities to explore and play with small world activities, puzzles, arts and crafts and the practise of using small tools, with feedback and support from adults, allow children to develop proficiency, control and confidence.

Activities at home:

- Play ball games.
- Trips to the park so your child can run, climb and jump.
- Make some play dough.
- Take a pot of water outside so your child can 'paint' the wall, path, shed.
- Chase and pop bubbles.
- Hula hooping.
- Dancing.



What will your child learn?

Literacy

It is crucial for children to develop a life-long love of reading. Reading consists of two dimensions: language comprehension and word reading. Language comprehension (necessary for both reading and writing) starts from birth. It only develops when adults talk with children about the world around them and the books (stories and non-fiction) they read with them, and enjoy rhymes, poems and songs together. Skilled word reading, taught later, involves both the speedy working out of the pronunciation of unfamiliar printed words (decoding) and the speedy recognition of familiar printed words. Writing involves transcription (spelling and handwriting) and composition (articulating ideas and structuring them in speech, before writing).



- Activities at home:
- Books are great fun, whether they tell you facts (non-fiction) or have stories in them (fiction). You can help your child hold books correctly, turn the pages and follow the words with their finger.
- Your child could help to write shopping lists, or perhaps write out some birthday or Christmas cards.
- Practise writing your child's name with them as much as you can.
- Games like 'I spy' are good for learning letter sounds and names.



What will your child learn?

Mathematics

Developing a strong grounding in number is essential so that all children develop the necessary building blocks to excel mathematically. Children should be able to count confidently, develop a deep understanding of the numbers to 10, the relationships between them and the patterns within those numbers. By providing frequent and varied opportunities to build and apply this understanding - such as using manipulatives, including small pebbles and tens frames for organising counting - children will develop a secure base of knowledge and vocabulary from which mastery of mathematics is built. In addition, it is important that the curriculum includes rich opportunities for children to develop their spatial reasoning skills across all areas of mathematics including shape, space and measures. It is important that children develop positive attitudes and interests in mathematics, look for patterns and relationships, spot connections, 'have a go', talk to adults and peers about what they notice and not be afraid to make mistakes.

Activities at home:

- Play board games such as snakes and ladders to practise counting.
- Make a game of sock sorting – talk about the patterns you can see.
- Sing number rhymes – 1,2,3,4,5 once I caught a fish alive...
- Playing games like snap and dominoes.
- Activities such as setting the table and 'playing shops' can help develop counting skills as well as an early understanding of money.
- Look for numbers in the world around us – on buses, doors and price tags. Can your child read them?



What will your child learn?

Understanding the World

Understanding the world involves guiding children to make sense of their physical world and their community. The frequency and range of children's personal experiences increases their knowledge and sense of the world around them – from visiting parks, libraries and museums to meeting important members of society such as police officers, nurses and firefighters. In addition, listening to a broad selection of stories, non-fiction, rhymes and poems will foster their understanding of our culturally, socially, technologically and ecologically diverse world. As well as building important knowledge, this extends their familiarity with words that support understanding across domains. Enriching and widening children's vocabulary will support later reading comprehension.

Activities at home:

- Talk to your child about your family, culture, religion, where you live.
- Talk about what you can see, hear, smell, taste, touch.
- Ask your child what buttons they think you should press and why when using electrical equipment.
- Talk about the similarities and differences you see when walking, in the car or on the bus.



What will your child learn?

Expressive Arts and Design

The development of children's artistic and cultural awareness supports their imagination and creativity. It is important that children have regular opportunities to engage with the arts, enabling them to explore and play with a wide range of media and materials. The quality and variety of what children see, hear and participate in is crucial for developing their understanding, self-expression, vocabulary and ability to communicate through the arts. The frequency, repetition and depth of their experiences are fundamental to their progress in interpreting and appreciating what they hear, respond to and observe.

Activities at home:

- Making prints using cut up potatoes and carrots or use cotton reels, large buttons or pebbles and shells.
- Making collage pictures with scraps of paper, fabric, wool, sequins, buttons, and natural materials such as leaves and grasses.
- Encourage children to draw items you have in the kitchen such as forks, spoons or a hand held whisk. They may also like to draw the detail of flowers and plants from the garden.
- Dressing up costumes; hats, scarves, bags, simple cloaks and masks provide hours of fun.
- Building a den is a great way for children to learn how to design and build on a large scale outdoors. Large cardboard boxes are great for this.
- Show your child how to use the tools and equipment safely when you are painting, sewing or making and mending things around the house.



Educational Visits



Educational visits make a positive contribution to children's learning and we sometimes ask parents to make a contribution towards the cost of bus fares and entrance fees. We hope to give the children lots of life experiences through visits to places such as the library, the supermarket, the garden centre, the beach etc.

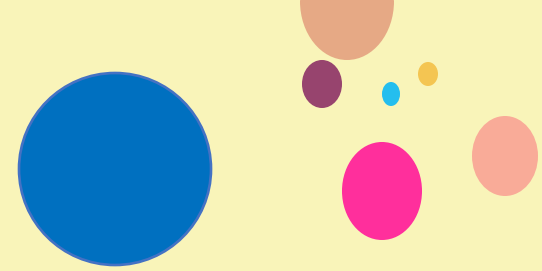


Working in partnership with parents

Learning begins at home and we encourage parents to be as involved as much as possible in their child's learning.

This is why we believe our family sessions are a valuable opportunity to see how your child learns through play in the school environment.

Hopefully, we can have our family sessions back up and running as soon as possible. We will keep you updated about this, as and when changes are made.



Reading

At Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Primary School we aim to promote an interest and pleasure in reading, as well as teaching a range of strategies to make sense of the texts read. This will lead to children reading confidently, happily and independently. You can support your child in their reading development by regularly reading with them at home.



Reading Book Activities

- Help your child to tell the story from the pictures in the book.
- Let your child hold the book and turn the pages.
- Encourage your child to follow the text from left to right.
- Ask a few 'why' questions about the book as you read.
 - Talk about the characters in the book.
- Compare events and people in books with your own lives.
 - Accept your child's efforts without criticism.
 - Always encourage or praise his or her own efforts.
 - Encourage your child to look at the cover of a book and guess what it may be about.
 - Encourage your child to re-tell stories.



Reading and Phonics Homework

Letter sound homework will be introduced during the first term in school.

Your child will be assessed on their knowledge of the letter sounds and will be sent home new sounds to learn each week.

Once your child has a secure understanding of the letter sounds, they will begin to receive flash cards with common words to learn to read and spell.

44 sounds will be introduced as the children do not only learn the first 26 letter sounds and names but also long vowel sounds such as 'ai', 'ie' etc.

Your child will also bring home a reading book each week and parents are encouraged to leave a comment in the home/school reading diary, to help inform the teacher about how your child is reading at home.



Clothing/Uniform

Children enjoy wearing their uniform and it is very practical as the Early Years curriculum provides many creative and messy activities.

The uniform consists of a royal blue sweatshirt, jumper or cardigan, dark grey trousers or skirt and golden polo shirt.

Blue and white checked dresses may be worn in the summer.

Sensible black school shoes must be worn – no trainers please.

It will encourage independence if clothing has easy to manage fastenings, especially when children are going to the toilet and getting dressed for outdoor play.

Every item of clothing must be clearly labelled with your child's name, including footwear.

Jewellery is not allowed at any time for safety and practical reasons.



Outdoor Learning

As part of the EYFS curriculum children will have access to outdoor areas in all weathers.

Children are encouraged to wear a waterproof coat to school each day.

In hot weather children must wear a sun hat and sun cream.

If possible please apply long-lasting sun cream before school and send in sun cream named, to be kept in school and applied by your child.



Please provide wellington boots to be left in school, as children will be unable to access the woodland area and sand area without suitable footwear.

A typical day in reception

8:30 – 9:00 – Welcome to school and self-registration

8:55 – 9:00 – Collective worship

9:00 – 9:20 – Guided Reading

9:20 – 10:10 - Independent learning/teacher led writing activities

10:10 – 10:30 – Snack and play time

10:30 – 11:00 – Phonics

11:00 – 11:40 – Independent learning/teacher led writing activities

11:45 – 12:30 – Lunch

12:30 – 1:00 – Mini Maths

1:00 – 1:30 – Independent learning/teacher led maths activities

1:30 – 2:45 - Independent learning/teacher led UTW/ EAD activities

2:45 – Story time

3:00 – Home time



2022-2023 Themes for Learning

At Our Lady of Lourdes the EYFS curriculum is planned and delivered through themes.

In the early years all of our themes build up to a 'big event' which you will receive more information about throughout the year.

We like to follow the children's interests and curiosities as much as possible and will plan mini topics throughout the year to enhance the children's learning.

Our main themes and events for this year will be:

<u>Term</u>	<u>Theme</u>	<u>Event</u>
Autumn 1	This is Me!	Teddy Bears' Picnic Elmer Parade
Autumn 2	Let's Celebrate!	World Cup Polar Express Day Christmas trip
Spring 1	What a wonderful world!	Chinese New Year
Spring 2	To infinity and beyond!	Space Day
Summer 1	Once Upon a Time...	Fairy Tale Ball
Summer 2	All Creations Great and Small...	Living Eggs Seaside trip



Top Tips

- You must inform a member of staff if someone different will be collecting your child. This is for safeguarding reasons and if we are not expecting someone different, we will need to phone a parent before allowing the child to leave. The welfare and safety of your child is paramount and we appreciate your cooperation and understanding with this matter.
- Please label everything clearly with your child's name – if it's named it comes back!
- Use the resources and information in your induction pack and on the school website to help prepare your child for school. You can find information here: <https://ourladyourdesrcva8403504.wp-sch.durham.gov.uk/parents/new-starters-2021/>
- Check your child's book bag on a regular basis for letters.
- Please also read text messages from the school to ensure you are informed of all events.
- You can also find information on our school website or by downloading our school app.
- The class blog is updated weekly with photographs of the lovely activities your children have been learning from. You can access this here: <https://www.ourladyoflourdes.durham.sch.uk/our-classes/class-r/class-r-blog/>



We look forward to working in partnership with you to encourage your child to 'let their light shine.'



Bishop Chadwick
Catholic Education Trust